

ESSAY

On the WEST-INDIA

DRY-GRIPES;

WITH THE

METHOD of Preventing and Curing

THAT

CRUEL DISTEMPER.

To which is added,

An Extraordinary CASE in Phylick.

PHILADELPHIA:

Printed and fold by B. FRANKLIN. M.DCC.XLV.

TOTHE

READER.

HAVE long been of Opinion, that'tis the Duty of Physicians frankly to communicate to the World, any particular Method of treating Diseases, which they have found to be successful in the Course of their Experience, and not generally known or practifed by others. By this the Medicinal Art has been, and may still be greatly improved. Many are the Advantages the pre-Sent Age reaps from such a disinterested Conduct in our Predecessors; and where we have freely received, surely we should freely give. With this View I have caused it to be

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THIS has induced me to write the following Essay on the Dry-Gripes, and to recommend a Method of Cure which appears to me to be drawn from the Nature and Cause of that grievous Distemper, and which has approved itself to me by a very extraordinary Success.

AND tho' the Method here laid down may be new to the Generality of the Profeffion, it has been practifed some Years, with great Approbation, by several Gentlemen of distinguished Characters in Philadelphia.

FROM their Judgment of this Method, as well as my own, I am inclined to hope the following Piece may contribute, in some Degree, to the Welfare of Mankind. With this View I have caused it to be printed, and submit it to the candid Consideration of the Publick.

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I Must not here omit acknowledging myself particularly obliged to my learned and
worthy Friend, Dr. A. Spencer, of Philadelphia (who is recommended by the famous
Dr. MEAD, and several eminent Gentlemen of the Faculty in London, as a most judicious and experienced Physician and Manmidwife) for his Trouble in revising this Essay, as well as for embellishing it with some
curious and useful Observations, which he
would not suffer me to point out to the
Reader.

New-Jersey, Trenton, March 25, 1745. Tho. Cadwalader.

PREFACE

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ESSAY

On the WEST-INDIA

DRY-GRIPES.

Account of a Difease similar to the Dry-Gripes, calling it Cholica Pictonum, because most frequent at Poictiers. They are both attended with excessive griping Pains in the Pit of the Stomach and Bowels, which are much distended with Wind; violent and frequent Reachings to vomit, sometimes bringing up small Quantities of bilious Matter; at other times there is a Sensation, as if the Bowels were drawn together by Ropes; great Costiveness, and frequently a continual Inclination to go to Stool without voiding any Thing.

The Ducts which open into the Inteftines, and excern a Mucus to moisten and lubricate them, are obstructed and glewed up with a Viscosity not easily resolvable; and through the whole Course of the Distemper, the Fæces are extremely dry and hard, in small Lumps like Bullets. The Intestines are drawn up towards the Back with almost continual convulsive Twitches. The Pains are frequently so sharp, that the Patient will fall on the Floor, and cry out violently in the greatest Agony.

The Alcaline Acrimony impacted on the Stomach and Intestines, is so great in many Cases, as to communicate its malign Influence to the whole nervous System, causing violent Convulsions, which are very dangerous Symptoms; tho' I have known many recover after having a Number of them. But if the excessive Pain continues any considerable Time, the *Peristaltic Motion* of the Intestines becomes inverted, and

the Iliac Passion enfues.

This fore Malady usually degenerates into the Palfy, and a Deprivation of all Sort of Motion in the Hands and Feet.—Doctor Willis conjectured, that the Transition of a

Cholic

Cholic to a Palfy, was a Sign that the Morbific Matter was transmitted not by the Arteries, but the Nerves, and that its Seat was not in the Coats of the Intestines, but the nervous Plexus of the Mesentery; which is very fenfible, and obnoxious to an Afflux of Humours of the nervous Kind. But this Remark of Dr. Willis can only relate to the Hysteric Cholic, which sometimes counterfeits the Bilious; being accompanied with a Pain about the Scrobiculum Cordis, the Region of the Stomach, and a little lower, which is followed with a Vomiting of Humours of a green or yellow Colour, and a great Sinking of the Spirits; after a Day or two the Pain goes off, but upon the flightest Commotion or Perturbation of the Mind, it foon returns again. In this Case, neither Cathartics nor Clysters have any Place, as they exasperate the Distemper; fo that this Disease seems to proceed rather from the Disorder of the Spirits, than the Fault of the Humours. Physicians, therefore, ought above all things to be cautious, that they mistake not the Diagnostic, by imagining that the Symptoms which attend Hysteric Women, do arise from fuch

fuch Distempers as they frequently counterfeit.

The remote Cause is supposed to be an obstructed Perspiration, by being too much exposed to a moist Night Air, and cold raw Winds; hard Drinking, especially Drams or strong Punch; and Want of a good Digestion, which renders the Chyle crude and viscid; but the proximate Cause is an acrimonious Bile.

It is, indeed, the Opinion of feveral ingenious and worthy modern Authors, that this Distemper is caused by taking large Quantities of Lime-juice; but I must beg Leave to differ from their Sentiments in this Case: For seeing the Humours which vellicate and fret the Coats of the Stomach and Intestines are intirely alcaline, Acids must be (and Experience confirms it) the most effectual Remedies. Thus the Negroes, in some Parts of the West-Indies, ease their excessive Pains in the Dry-Gripes by eating Limes, or drinking the Juice. It has likewise been observed, that fince the People of America have drank Punch with more Water (which moistens the Fæces, and dilutes the acrid Salts of the Bile) and made

of old Spirit (which has less of the hot fiery Particles than when new from the Still) yet with much more Lime-juice than formerly, the Dry-Gripes is not near fo com-

mon as before this Custom prevailed.

In all Kinds of Diseases it is absolutely necessary to know the Cause; for otherwife to attempt a Cure, is like a blind Man shooting at a Mark; the Remedies in one Case being directly opposite and destructive in another. Thus if a Fever, proceeding from a hot, inflammatory, alcaline Cause, be treated with a hot Regimen, and not with an acid cooling One, the Patient must inevitably perish; but, on the contrary, if Acidity is the Cause (as it commonly is in Children) the alcaline Method is to be preferred. As therefore a Physician, not carefully regarding the Symptoms and the Cause of a Fever, may prove the Destruction of the Patient; so in all Cholics the Symptoms and the Cause are to be principally regarded; and for want of a nice and exact Attendance thereto, a too general Method of Cure very feldom meets with Success in either Case.

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.. But before I enter upon the Cure of the Dry-Gripes, Humanity obliges me to obferve, that the Perfons who are most liable to it are generally lean, and much emaciated, by their excessive Perspiration in the West-Indies; and consequently the aqueous Parts of the Blood being thus evaporated, the faline Particles must necessarily become exceeding acrid. The Method, therefore, to prevent this Malady in fuch Constitutions, is obvious, viz. To abstain, in the West-Indies, and in Summer on the Continent, from Drams and strong Punch; falted and high feasoned Meats; immoderate Exercise, which raises Sweat; and profuse Venery: To rise early in a Morning; to take Chocolate for Breakfast and Supper; make frequent use of Broths and boiled Meats, emollient and acid Herbs and Fruits; dilute plentifully with tepid, small, and fubacid Liquors; and when costive, to take a small saponaceous Purge, so as to procure one Stool a Day.

The following Method I have found, by many Years Experience, successful in the Dry-Gripes, and were it more generally practifed,

practifed, I believe the Lives and Limbs of great Numbers might be faved.

To mitigate the Violence of the Pains,

and prevent Vomiting, I order,

Opii, Grana una vel duo, sive Laudan. liquid. Sydenham. Guttas triginta, quadraginta, vel quinquaginta, et repetend. pro re nata, in majori vel minori Dosi, donec Æger se sensit in statu tolerabili.

If the Vomiting be so bad that the Stomach can hardly retain any Thing, the following Powders scarce ever fail of succeeding:

R. Tartari Vitriolati, Grana decem; Olei Cinnamomi Guttam unam. M. F. Pulvis sumendus in Haustu Theæ Menthæ omni (vel secunda quaque) Hora.

The Vomiting being stopped, I have Recourse to the following Prescription, till three or four Stools are obtained:

R. Cremoris Tartari Grana triginta; Olei Caryophyllorum Guttam unam. M. F.

Pulvis sumendus in Haustu Theæ Menthæ (vel Decocti avenacei) omni Hora.

As an obstinate Costiveness, and most violent Pain of the Bowels, are perpetual Symptoms in this Disease, Opiates are to be administered through its whole Course at proper Intervals. When, therefore, the Pain is very excessive, I give Opiates even at the same time with the purging Powders, that the Pain may be rendered tolerable, that a Relaxation of the Intestines may thence follow, and that their Peristaltic Motion may become constant and regular, and be nei-

ther interrupted nor perverted.

Every Pain acts as a Stimulus, or rather, a Stimulus excites a Sense of Pain: But every Stimulus provokes the Fibres to Contractions, and, if violent, throws them into Spasms. When, therefore, a Cholic Pain is very vehement, the Intestines are in some Places affected with Convulsions, and are as if bound hard with a Swathe; insomuch, that unless the Pain is lulled asleep, neither the Fæces nor Wind can be transmitted downwards: It is for this Reason, that every violent Cholic Pain is almost always attended

tended with a great Costiveness. It is, therefore, very rational to add Anodynes to Purges in very vehement Cholics; nor is this any new Practice, seeing the most experienced Riverius, in Capite de Dolore Cholico, prescribed Aloes Drachmam unam, Scammonei Grana sex; to which he added two Grains of Opium, and in one of his Observations even five Grains.

This Course, steadily pursued, gives sometimes three or sour Stools in Twenty-four Hours; but if no such End is obtained, as it often happens (especially if the Distemper is of long Standing) I order the Abdomen to be cherished with an emollient Fomentation, and that more particularly when the Belly is very tense and hard, or excessively contracted by a Spasm: For the Fomentation penetrating the Integuments of the Abdomen, softens and relaxes the too tense and rigid Fibres. I have often experienced the good Effects of the following Fomentation:

R. Florum Chamæmeli Manipulos tres; Radicis Althææ, Seminum Lini et Fænugræci, ana Uncias tres; Capitum Papaveris

veris albi Uncias quatuor. Cum Aquæ et Lactis recentis, ana Q. S. Vase decoque clauso.

But I am apt to believe, that far better Effects might be expected, if the Patient made use of a Semicupium prepared from the same Ingredients. Every One who has observed the very happy Effects of an emollient Bath in Nephritic Pains, will very readily agree to what I say.—I have, indeed, frequently seen the most cruel Nephritic Paroxysm suddenly vanish by the Use of a Bath only, when neither plentiful Bleeding, nor Opiates given freely, gave the least Relief: Nay, I have learned, by many Experiments, that nothing conduces so much to ease the Pain, and send the Stone down the Ureters, as a warm and emollient Bath.

I am likewise of Opinion, that it would very much conduce to a speedy and perfect Cure, if the Patient, through the whole Course of the Distemper, made frequent use of oleaginous Mixtures, which would not only lubricate and relax the Intestines, but also, by sheathing the lixivial Salts of the Bile, prevent their Points from acting

with

with fo much Force and Energy upon the Stomach and Intestines. For in this Distemper, the Secretion of the acrid Salts of the Bile, in the Hepatic Glands, seems to be in an over Proportion to the oily Parts.

Where there is no Vomiting, and the Pain not very acute, the Powders of Crem. Tartar may, after giving one Opiate, be used as directed, without any Delay. The Effects of which, after some Time, will be a sensible Perception of the Pain salling gradually downwards, from the Pit of the Stomach towards the Rectum. When, therefore, the Pain is settled in the lower Parts of the Abdomen, you may, in case the Patient is uneasy for want of a Stool, prescribe the following Purge.

R. Cremoris Tartari Drachmam unam; Radicis Jalapii Grana sex; Olei Caryophyllorum Guttam unam. M. f. Pulvis sumendus in Haustu Decoeti avenacei secunda (vel tertia) quaque Hora.

If this does not, in fix or feven Hours, procure a Stool, I order an oleaginous and emollient Clyster; which not only lubricates

cates the Intestines, but also softens the indurated Fæces.

When the hardened Excrements are carried downwards, the Patient begins to break Wind backwards, which is fometimes exceeding offensive. In the first three or four Stools, the Fæces are often very fætid, and abounding with a ropy viscid Substance, re-

fembling membranous Filaments.

It is a necessary Caution not to be too hasty in gaining a Passage thro' the Body; for if larger Quantities of the same Medicines, or others more stimulating, should be given, you will be often foil'd in your Expectations, and make good a common Saying, The more Haste, the worse Speed: For sharp stimulating Purges and Clysters have very bad Effects on the Nerves in this Disease, and endanger a Deprivation of Motion in the Patient's Limbs.

Tho' the Patient generally recovers upon procuring a free Passage through the Intetestines, by the prudent Use of the already mentioned Medicines; yet it is necessary to keep the Body still temperately open for a Week, or more, by the last prescribed Purge; to which may be added Calomel.

Grana

Grana fex: For otherwise the Patient becomes very costive, and the excessive Pains return, by the acrid Humours perpetually slowing into the Intestines.—But if notwithstanding all this the Pains should return, which perhaps may be owing to a greater Degree of Viscidity in the Fluids, I have known a Dram of the Tartar. Solubil. taken every three Hours to perfect the Cure; and when that failed, the following has generally succeeded:

R. Aquilæ albæ Grana sex; Conservæ Rosarum rubrarum Q. S. ut siat Bolus omni Mane et Vesperi sumendus donec Ptyalismus excitetur lenissimus.

The Calomel, by its Gravity, and the acid adhering to the metalline Part, attenuates the Fluids, and forcing open the fecretory and excretory Passages, answers the Intention in such obstinate Cases.

When Convulsions happen, strong Stimulants are to be avoided; but Anodynes generally relieve, with the Method already

described.

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In this Distemper the poor Patient being desirous of a Moment's Ease, even at any Rate, has too commonly a Recourse to Drams, and other spirituous Liquors. But tho' a Moment's Ease may, by such Means, be obtained, yet the Disease is more strongly rivetted, the Pains return with double Force, and all the Symptoms are vastly aggravated.

The proper Drinks in this Distemper are, Water-Gruel, Barley-Water, and such others as are of the demulcent Kind; which dilute, obtund and dissolve, the acrimoni-

ous Salts of the Blood.

Till the Stomach and Intestines have perfectly recovered their proper Tone, the Patient is very liable to a Relapse, either by taking Cold, drinking too freely of spirituous Liquors, or not keeping strictly to Aliments which are light and easy of Digestion: To strengthen, therefore, the Stomach and Bowels after the Patient's Recovery, I order the following Medicines:

R. Elixir proprietatis Guttas sexaginta, ter de Die sumendas in quovis Vehiculo.

R. Corticis Peruviani Uncias duas; Radicis Serpentariæ Virginianæ, Florum Chamæmeli, ana sesquidrachmam; Radicis Gentianæ, Corticis Aurantiorum, ana Drachmas tres; Radicis Rhei Drachmas duas. Infundantur cum Vini Maderensis Libris quatuor. Capiat Æger Uncias duas ter de Die.

Vel,

R. Saponis Veneti semiunciam; Extracti Gentianæ, Chalybis cum Sulphure præparati, ana Drachmas duas; Pulveris Radicis serpentariæ Virginianæ, Aloes, ana Drachmam unam; Syrupi Zinziberis, Q. S. ut siant Pilulae mediocres. Capiat tres omni Mane et Vesperi.

To compleat the Cure, let the Patient, as foon as able, use constant and moderate Exercise on Horseback, than which there is not a better Thing to strengthen the Viscera and Intestines; for the Fibres of the Mesentery and Intestines having been with the long Pains much weakened and relaxed, are by this Means brought to recover their proper Tone, and reassume their former Ofcillations,

cillations, so as to shake off and expel the morbific Impurities: For riding on Horseback, by the very frequent Jogging of the Body, gently shakes the whole Abdomen; and, therefore, by a continual Pressure and Agitation, it throws off whatever adheres to the Intestines, overcomes any Lentor remaining in the small Vessels, and very much promotes the Circulation of the Blood thro' the Mesenteric Vessels, and little Branches of the Vena Porta, where the circulating Fluids move the flowest. Hence this Exercife, by its almost continual jolting of the Body, disfolves the Blood, concreted partly by the Force of the Disease, and partly by its fluggish Motion in those Parts; opens the Obstructions formed in the Hepatic, Pancreatic, Mesenteric, and Intestinal Glands; and greatly contributes to the Action of the Spleen, which is affifting to that of the Liver. Lastly, as it is evident, from many Experiments, that Perspiration is very much increased by Riding, it is of vast Advantage not only in this, but in almost every Chronical Disease, by driving the noxious Humours from the Center to the Circumference, and expelling them through the Ducts

Ducts of the Milliary Glands. Riding only, has indeed reftored many, on whom the most operose Medicines have not had the least good Effect. Let then the Patient enjoy Health by Riding, and daily acquire Strength by this noble Exercise. --- The Use of the Flesh-Brush, and other Frictions, are likewife necessary, especially about the Joints and Limbs, which will promote a brisker Circulation of the Fluids in those Parts. In fine, every Thing is to be used which will increase the Elasticity of the Fibres, attenuate the Fluids, and promote a good Digestion.

If this Disease is complicated with any other, the Judgment of the Physician may then vary the Method, according to the different Circumstances of the Case. Thus when the Dry-Gripes is only the Symptom of a spurious, intermitting Fever, the Peruvian Bark, prudently administered, is then the only proper Remedy: For the spurious Intermittents create a great Variety of direful Symptoms, their true Characteristicks being disguised under the Appearance of some other Distemper; as enormous Vomitings, griping Loofenesses, Cho-

lera

lera Morbus, Cholics, pricking Pains in the Side like a Pleurify, Ophthalmies, Apoplexies, Pains on one Side of the Head, or Hemicranies universal or particular, Spasms or Cramps, Nephritic Pains, &c. also Pains like those of Women in Labour.

The Bark is certainly a most noble Remedy in many Cases; and notwithstanding fome ingenious Gentlemen have pointed out a Way to answer all its Uses by other Remedies, endued (as they fay) with as good, if not better, Properties; yet I believe, every Practitioner, who has had a thorough Experience of its Efficacy in many Diseases, will readily acknowledge, that nothing has it: And hitherto been discovered equal to it: that late Discovery, in the Philosophical Transactions, of its most admirable Effect in Mortifications, may be fufficient to convince fuch Sceptics, that their darling Hypotheses not agreeing with Facts, are but Cobweb Schemes, calculated rather to amuse, than to establish a solid and lasting Practice.

All Hypotheses, unless they agree with Facts, are delusive and vain; and I believe it will be readily granted, that had the Writers of this and former Ages confined

them-

themselves more to practical Observations, some Diseases, now the Opprobria Medicorum, would have been better understood, and perhaps as easily cured as an intermitting Fever by the Bark judiciously administered.

What I have faid is not to derogate from the Theory of Phylick, which is founded on Facts and proper Observations; and by which every particular Distemper, with all its Symptoms and Accidents, may be accounted for; because it is impossible for any Man to judge from fuch and fuch Symptoms, what the Method of Cure ought to be in this or that Disease, unless he has an Idea of the Causes and Manner of their Production. A true Physician, therefore, goes always warily to Work, and proceeds upon a just and folid Foundation; for he first gets a Knowledge of the Seat and Cause of a Disorder, and at these he levels his Prescription. If the Case proves obstinate, he augments the Force of his Medicines, and varies them as Circumstances alter, without acknowledging an End to his Art, where the Disease is curable: For he has always some promising Remedy in Reserve, and

and can, from Rules of Analogy, directly attempt the Removal of Diseases unseen before. A Person, on the contrary, who is ignorant of the Animal OEconomy, and the many other Requisites in Physic, is puzzled and confounded at every Accident which turns up, and a new Cafe throws him quite out of his Biass; for having but few Remedies to trust to, he directs them at all Adventures, without pursuing any formed Design, or without regarding the Seat, the Cause, or Stage of the Disease, and the Circumstances of the Patient. If happily his Medicines succeed, it is well; but if they fail, he is at the Extent of his Cord, he has done his utmost, and your Case is desperate: But thrice happy is the Patient, if he escapes without having either his Constitution or Life destroyed, through the Pretender's Ignorance and Rashness.

I shall now after this Digression give a few Cases of Persons who have been under my Care, to illustrate the foregoing Me-

thod of curing the Dry-Gripes.

CASE I.

A young Man, of eighteen or nineteen Years of Age, having been seized with the Dry-Gripes, was treated in the usual Manner with strong stimulating Purges and Clysters, for about a Week before I was called to his Assistance; but instead of relieving him, they had strongly aggravated all the Symptoms. At my coming he had a racking Pain in his Stomach and Bowels, and fuch frequent Strainings to vomit, as to cast up every Thing he took. His Pains were fometimes fo exceeding sharp, that two or three Persons could scarcely keep him in Bed; and after every fuch sharp Fit, he could not see for near a Quarter of an Hour. As, therefore, Opiates could not be kept in his Stomach, I ordered him to take the already mentioned Powder of vitriolated Tartar every Hour in Mint-Tea, which always suppresses the Vomiting, where Anodynes fail.

After taking three Doses his Stomach became so well settled, as to take the follow-

ing Draught.

D 2 R. Aquæ

R. Aquæ Menthæ Uncias duas; Laudani liquidi Sydenhammi Guttas quadraginta. M. f. Haustus.

About an Hour afterwards I prescribed the Powders of Cream of Tartar; and at the same time ordered his Abdomen to be well somented with the Fomentation.

After using the Fomentation, and taking feveral Doses of the Powders, the Pains fell down into the lower Parts of the Abdomen; I, therefore, ordered him to take the purging Powder with Jalap every two Hours in any Vehicle.

But after taking three of those Powders, he became so impatient for Want of a Stool, that I ordered the following Clyster:

R. Decocti communis pro Clystere, Uncias duodecim; Electuarii lenitivi, Drachmas fex; Tartari solubilis Drachmas tres; Olei Chamæmelini, Syrupi Rosarum pallidarum, ana sesquiunciam, Olei Baccarum funiperi stillatitii Grana decem. M. f. Enema.

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This operating three or four times, brought away a large Quantity of Excrements.

To keep him tolerably easy the Anodynes were repeated three or four times every Twenty-four Hours, tho' in smaller Doses.

To keep his Body temperately open, the last Powders were continued five or fix Days. At length, by the Assistance of the Elixir Proprietatis, and the bitter Insusion, he was perfectly recovered.

bas ; sould C A S E III. as dosmos

An old Man, near Seventy, was feized with this Diftemper about a Month before I was fent for: He had no Vomiting, and his Pains, tho' very sharp, were not so acute as usual.

I gave him, as foon as I came, Opin fefquigranum, and afterwards the Powders of
Cream of Tartar. Next Morning I was fent
for very early, and found him in a Convulfion; but as it went off, I repeated the Opiate, and continued the Use of the Powders. In the Evening of the following Day,
the

the Pains being removed to the lower Parts of the Abdomen, I ordered a Clyster, and by observing the Method mentioned in the last Case, he got well in a few Days.

CASE III.

A Man, about Twenty Years of Age, was attacked by the Dry-Gripes above three Weeks before I faw him, and had taken (as I was informed) during that Time, near Twenty Purges and Clysters. The Pains were excessively sharp in the Pit of the Stomach, as well as in the Intestines; and he was frequently so convulsed, that two or three Persons could scarcely keep him down. He was once so distracted with the Violence of the Pain, that he was with Dissiculty prevented from throwing himself out of the Chamber Window.

I gave him Liquid. Laud. Syd. Guttas quinquaginta, which in a few Hours abated the Violence of his Pains. In short, by pursuing the Method already laid down, he got the better of the Disease in about three Days Time. But his Stomach and Bowels were so very sore afterwards, that he could hardly

hardly fuffer any Thing to touch them. This indeed I have commonly observed, where the Pains have been very violent.

It is needless to recite any more Cases, these being sufficient to give a perfect Idea of the Modus Medendi to Practitioners.

I shall now, to shew the pernicious Confequence of giving Quicksilver in this Difemper, relate the Case of a Person in one

of the Hospitals in London.

A Man about forty Years old had the Dry-Gripes several Weeks, before he was taken into the Hospital. He had continual Reachings to vomit, and violent Pains in his Belly, which was prodigiously swelled and hard. The Physician attending the Hospital prescribed very frequently Clysters and Purges of Aq. Purgant. cum mana, et Sal. mirab. Glaub. and other Remedies. At last, when he found the Patient not in the least relieved, but rather worse, he ordered him to take Six Ounces of Quickfilver at a Time, which was repeated, till the Quantity amounted to 18 Ounces. This Method, however, was so far from recovering the Patient, that the Symptoms increasing, he died

died after enduring the most racking Pains,

for the space of eight Weeks.

Having open'd his Body, the next Day after his Death, I found the Intestines very much distended with Wind, but little or no Excrements. In his Stomach, which was very much contracted and shrivel'd up, I found fourteen Ounces of the Quicksilver he had taken eight Days before, mixt with about half a Pint of viscid Matter.

Hence we learn, how long Quickfilver may remain in the Stomach, especially when the Fibres have lost their proper Tone; since in this Case the contractile Power of of the Stomach must have been exerted with a prodigious Force, in order to have thrown such a Weight from the Bottom of the Stomach over such an Ascent as the Pylorus.

As some Persons have a great Opinion of the Use of crude Quicksilver in curing the Dry-Gripes, as well as many other Diseases, I shall here, to shew how unphilosophical such Gentlemen are, give you Dr. Quincey's Reasoning upon the Article of Quicksilver:----' It is (says he) frequently talked of indeed, as good in some Affections of the Bowels; but there are very few

few Instances of its Use in such Cases. Nor can that at all appear reasonable, which is commonly reported of its quick · Paffage through the Body; for the Arguments which the Favourers of such Reports make use of, are quite against them; that is, its prodigious Weight: For when it first comes into the Stomach, it cannot but fall to the Bottom; which is so much below the Pylorus, that a vast Force must be required to throw it over into the Intestines; and when it comes there, by their manifold Convolutions, it very frequently must ascend, and particularly while it passes the Colon: So that it is hardly conceivable, how a Body of fo ' great a Weight can be lifted over so many 'Ascents, as it necessarily comes at, be-'tween the OE fophagus and the Rectum.'

If Dr. Quincey's Reasons are convincing, how much stronger must be the Objection against the Use of Quicksilver, in Cases where the Stomach and Bowels are relaxed and weakened; the Fibres being then certainly less capable of exerting their contractile Force to raise any Weight; which is certainly the Case, when a Person has a laboured

laboured under fuch a violent Distemper as the *Dry-Gripes* for a considerable Time.

I have feen in England two Instances of the Success attending the Method here laid down for the Dry-Gripes in the Cholica Pi-Etonum, arising from the Fumes of Whitelead; which gives me Reason to hope, that by a farther Trial of it in Europe, it would be found as beneficial in the latter Distem-

per, as it is in the former.

We frequently observe Persons in the Dry-Gripes to lose the Use of their Limbs (the Ancles and Wrists becoming exceeding weak, and the Balls of their Thumbs finking) either by the Acrimony of the Humours, or the Use of strong Stimulants; by which means the fine nervous System being wounded and debilitated, the Equilibrium between the Solids and Fluids is destroyed .-- In such a relaxed State of the Solids, the Blood must necessarily become viscid; for the Fibres having lost their elaflic Force, the Circulation of the Fluids is diminished, and consequently they run into preternatural Cohefions. The giving, therefore, a greater Degree of Fluidity to the Blood, and a proper Tenfity or Springiness to the Fibres, is absolutely necessary, to make all the regular Secretions and Excretions; for otherwise some Parts of the Body will want a suitable Supply of nutritious Juices, while others are overloaded with a viscous Fluid.

All Perfons of weak, relaxed Nerves, should avoid a moist and foggy Air, which would necessarily render their Fibres still more lax and flaccid *; but let them reside in a cold, clear Air, which will give a greater Degree of Tensity and Elasticity to the Solids. In such Cases, the Air of some Parts of North-America is far preferable to that of England, which is much moister, and more foggy than the former. On this Account it is, that Chronical Distempers are more frequent and obstinate in England than in North-America.—But when they are in a cold Climate, they ought not to tarry too long in the cold Air, for sear of

^{*} The Effects produced in the human Body by a heavy or light Atmosphere, and according as it is affected by Cold, Heat, Moisture, or Dryness, were fully and clearly explained in the Philosophical Lectures exhibited by Dr. Spencer in Philadelphia last Summer; which, as I am informed, will be speedily published.

chilling their Blood; and it would be of Service to fuch Persons to wear the following Plaister on their Ancles and Wrists during the cold Weather:

R. Emplastri Oxycrocei, Galbani, ana Unciam unam; Opii, Camphoræ, ana Drachmas duas. M. f. Emplastrum.

The Opium and Camphor, by the Subtilty of their Parts, are very penetrating and attenuating; and consequently will be the Means of preventing a Lodgment of viscid Juices on the Joynts; but the Plaister ought to be renewed every Eighth or Tenth Day. The Linimentum Paralyticum, which is well known in England, ought likewise to be well rubbed in, down the Back, and on the Limbs, twice a Day. It is a most excellent Composition, and and were its great Efficacy in these Cases more generally known, it would be deservedly esteemed, as a most noble Topic in a relaxed State of the Nerves.

The Foods which they eat should be nourishing, and easy of Digestion; for where the Fibres are weak, the Aliments ought

ought to be such as are easily converted into Animal Juices, and will give the least Refistance to the Action of the Solids; viz. New-laid Eggs, Jellies, Chickens, Lamb, Viper-Broth, &c. All subacid Liquors are best, as Rhenish Wine, Madera Wine, in which Rattle-Snakes are infused; four and weak Punch, made with old Spirit, &c. But both Meats and Drinks are to be taken only in small Quantities at a Time, tho' oftener than usual; for hereby the Inconvenience of a difordered Stomach will be avoided, and the Digestion rendered much lighter, and far easier. But, above all Things, let them take care to chew their Victuals thoroughly, with a fufficient Quantity of light and well baked Bread; for, according to the Arabian Saying, He that does not take care to chew his Victuals thoroughly, hateth his own Soul. It is from the Neglect of this Duty, that frequently an Indigeftion arises, which creates Crudities, and a vicious Chyle; which is the Forerunner of the Destruction of the whole Animal OEconomy .--- The Stomach may be called the Kitchen of the Body, whose Office is to digeft and convert the Aliments into

into a laudable Chyle; the more, therefore, the Food is attenuated and divided by Mastication, so much the easier it is for the Stomach to perform its Office. Temperance is, indeed, the greatest Preservative of Health; for it prevents all Superfluities, and neither overloading nor straining the Vessels, enables Nature to exert herself with the greatest Force and Vigour. Cupping, Bleeding, Blistering, Purges, Clysters, &c. are feldom of Use, but to the Slothful and Intemperate; and are, for the most part, only Expedients to make Luxury confistent with Health. The Bodies of fuch Persons as indulge themselves in all Sorts of Aliments, without regarding either the Quantity or Quality, become frequently full of crude and vicious Humours; which, infenfibly increasing, at last begin to putrify, and grow malignant. Upon violent Exercife, therefore, or the flightest Excess of either Heat or Cold, Moisture or Dryness in the Air, or any little Inconvenience arifing from the other Non-naturals, a Dangerous Inflammation often enfues, and vents itself in acute and mortal Diseases: For no Persuasion can prevail with some Men to use

use purgative Evacuations to disburden oppressed Nature at proper Seasons, or before the Disease begins to gather Strength; flattering themselves that all is well and safe within, as long as nothing appears outwardly, or is felt by them to the contrary. He, therefore, that is desirous of preserving his Senses and rational Faculties in the greatest Persection, and of being able to act with a sprightly Vigour and lively Apprehension, must beware of spurring Nature on

beyond her Craving.

Lastly, Let such Valetudinarians use the Flesh-Brush, moderate Exercise, without raifing Sweat, and frequent polite and chearful Company. Music may likewise be of great Service in fuch Cases; for every Stroke of a musical Instrument causes an Undulation of the Air, which giving some Degree of Concussion to the Fibres of the Body, without overstraining them, produces a brisker Circulation of the Blood; and consequently invigorates the Nerves, and lessens the Viscidity of the Fluids. The extraordinary and almost incredible Effects of Music in curing the Bite of the Tarantula, the World is no Stranger to. If these Advantages

Advantages from Music were more particularly considered, it might perhaps be applied to very noble Purposes, and not (as some imagine) to enervate the Mind; for as a distempered Body is often the Cause of a disordered Mind, it may, by acting on the Solids, be the Means of regulating our Passions, and bringing our Minds to a proper Degree of Calmness and Serenity. Thus Saul, who was without Doubt of a melancholy Disposition, frequently soothed his troubled Mind, and raised his drooping Spirits, by the Force of David's Music.

I will now subjoin a few Forms of Medicines, which I generally make use of in a relaxed State of the Nerves, but more especially in Autumn, when we are most subject to the Diseases arising from a debilitated Fibre; for in that Season of the Year, our Bodies being relaxed by the Heat of the Day, are more liable to the Mischiess of the sudden Coldness of the Evenings, Nights and Mornings. Besides, Sanctorius has observed, that from the Autumnal Equinox, to the Winter-Solstice, our Perspiration is, one Day with another, about one Pound less; and this Diminution is still so much

the more, as our Vessels have been more relaxed by the Summer's Heat; for they then cannot with Force enough propel the contained Fluids, which confequently must every Day contract a greater Degree of Lentor and Viscidity .--- It is, therefore, no Wonder, that many unwary Persons are labouring under Difeases in Autumn, seeing their Humours are then more than ordinary acrid, as well as their Perspiration very much diminished.

It is, therefore, evident, that the Prophylactic Method, in that Season of the Year, is to strengthen the Fibres, and preferve a proper Fluidity in the Blood; that the ordinary Perspiration may be kept up in a proper, constant, and uniform Manner. --- The following Medicines answer such an Intention in this Climate, and act as Alterants; for every Thing which does not operate in the first, but farthest Passages, the Physicians commonly include under that general Appellation. I think, however, that a few gentle and proper Purges ought first to be taken, in order to evacuate the redundant acrid Bile, which kind F

Nature frequently endeavours to do, by Diarrhæas, Choleras, or Dysenteries.

R. Corticis Peruviani semiunciam; Camphoræ Grana triginta; Olei Cinnamomi Guttas octo; Syrupi Zinziberis Q. S. ut siat Electuarium. Capiat quantitatem Nucis Moschatae omni Mane et Vesperi.

Vel,

R. Conservæ Absinthii Romani, Corticis Peruviani, ana semiunciam; Chalybis Tartarisati Drachmas duas; Pulveris Zedoariæ Drachmam unam; Galangæ minoris Scrupula duo; Olei Cinnamomi Guttas octo; Syrupi Zinziberis Q. S. ut siat Electuarium. Dosis eadem.

Or, if a liquid Form is more agreeable, two or three Spoonfuls of the following may be taken once or twice a Day.

R. Pulveris Corticis Peruviani Unciam unam, Radicis Rhei Drachmas duas; Baccarum Juniperi, Corticis Aurantiorum, ana Drachmas tres; Radicis Serpentariæ Virginianæ, acori veri, ana Drachmam unam, Cochinillarum Grana triginta. Macera per Triduum in Vini Maderensis libris duabus. Cola.

(37) Vel,

R. Pulveris Corticis Peruviani Unciam unam; Radicum Rhei et Acori veri, Cinnamomi, ana Drachmam unam; Corticis Aurantiorum Drachmas duas; Cochinillarum Grana triginta. Macera per Triduum in Vini Maderensis Libris duabus. Dein Cola.

The Ingredients joined with the Bark in these Tinctures give an agreeable Warmth and Scent, which is very grateful to a Stomach weakened and palled by a Fever and Medicines. The faline and refinous Parts of the Bark, being intimately united with the Liquor, are thus given with much greater Advantage, than can be by giving it in Substance: For when it is given in the finest Powders, which can possibly be obtained from the Mortar and Sieve, it is yet too coarse for a weakened Constitution, and therefore frequently brings on a Diarrhea by its Stimulus; but in Tincture or Decoction, it is too fine to give any Disturbance in the first Passages, and not only passes, by the common Course of Circulation, much farther, but gives a more uniform and general Contraction to the debilitated and relaxed Fibres.

AN

AN

EXTRAORDINARY CASE

IN

PHYSICK.

HE following Account being attended with some very uncommon Circumstances, I thought it would not be improper to make a full Enquiry into the Particulars, of which I was first informed by several Persons of Credit.

The Wife of one B. S. who had been a healthy, lively Woman, and the Mother of two Children, was feized, in the Year 1738, with a Diabetes, and the usual Symptoms, viz. a frequent and copious Discharge by Urine, a gradual Wasting of the Body, a Hectic Fever, with a quick, low Pulse, Thirst, great Pains in her Shoulders, Back and Limbs, and Loss of Appetite. She continued in this Manner two Years,

notwithstanding the Use of Medicines usually prescribed in such Cases, but much emaciated. She was then attacked with an Intermitting Fever, which foon left her; and after this the Diabetes gradually decreased; so that in a few Months she was intirely free from that Disorder; but the Pains in her Limbs still continued. She recovered her Appetite very well, breathed freely, and her Hettic Fever was very much lessened, tho' she sometimes had Exacerbations of the same. About the Beginning of Winter, 1740, she had such a Weakness and Pain in her Limbs, as to confine her to Bed altogether; and in a few Months afterwards the Bones in her Legs and Arms felt somewhat soft to the Touch, and were fo pliable, as to be bent into a Curve; nay, for feveral Months before her Death, they were as limber as a Rag, and would bend any way with less Difficulty than the muscular Parts of a healthy Person's Leg, without the Interpolition of the Bones.

The 12th of April, 1742, she died, being then near the Age of Forty; and, having the Consent of her Friends, I had the Curiosity to examine the Body. Upon rai-

fing the Cutis, I found the Membrana Adiposa much thicker than I expected in a Perfon fo much emaciated; the Sternum and Ribs, with their Cartilages, very foft; and all the cartilaginous Productions of the Ribs on the Left-fide doubled over one another, about an Inch long, in this Form Z, but flatter. Upon raising the Sternum, I found the Lungs adhering very close to the Pleura on each Side, but more loose and flaccid, and much less in Size than usual. Her Heart was of the common Bigness, and upon viewing her Liver, I found it at least a third Part bigger than ordinary. Her Spleen was about an Inch and a Half in the dongest Part, and about a Quarter of an Inch thick, and the Intestines were very o pliable, as to be bent into beathur doun,

She had Appearances of feveral Anchylofes formed in the small Joynts, viz. Carpal and Metacarpal Bones, &c. which had been without Motion for several Months; but upon laying them open, I found they were only like a thin Shell. The cartilaginous Epiphyses of the Bones were intirely dissolved, and no Part of the Heads remaining, but an Outside, not thicker than an

Egg-shell. Upon making Incisions in her Legs and Arms of five or fix Inches long, I found the outer Lamine of the Bones foft, and perfectly membranous, about the Thickness of the Peritonæum; and containing (instead of a boney Substance) a Fluid of the Confistence of Honey when thick, and of a reddish Colour, but not at all disagreeble to the Smell. There was, however, an Appearance of Bones near the Joynts of her Legs and Arms, tho' in part diffolved; but what remained was very foft, and full of large Holes, like a Honey-comb. The Bones of the Head yielded easily to the Pressure of my Finger. It may feem furprising, that those Parts of the Bones, which are the most compact and hard, should be dissolved, while their Heads, which are more fpongy and foft, had not altogether loft their Substance .-- She was, when in Health, five Foot high, as I was informed by her Husband; but having measured her after Death, she was no more than three Foot seven Inches in Length, tho' all her Limbs were stretched out strait.

Quaere. Whether a corrofive, acid State of the Fluids, might not have been the Caufe

Cause of this uncommon Dissolution of the Bones? For had it been an alcaline Acrimony, I am of Opinion, those Fluids, so long extravasated, would have arrived to a great Degree of Putrefaction, and consequently must have been extremely offensive to the Smell, as is usual in other Cases proceeding from such a Cause.

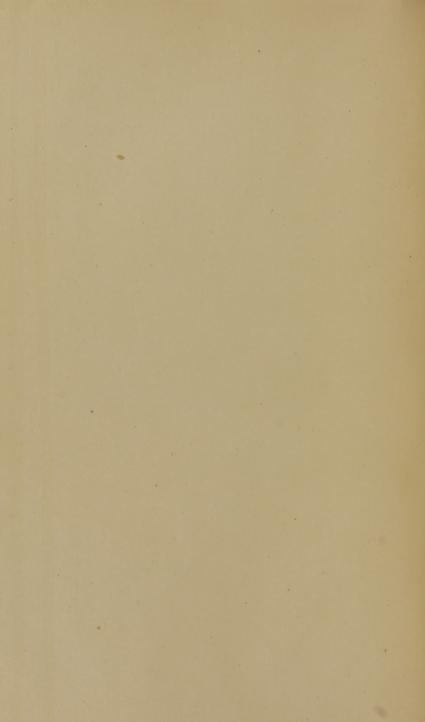
Supposing therefore a corrosive, acid State of the Fluids, to have been the proximate Cause; Quaere, Whether an alcaline Regimen, timely pursued, would not have been the most likely Method to have suc-

ceeded in this poor Woman's Case?

The END.







Mcd. Hist. WZ 270 C126e 1745





